THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) This Ministry has no such information. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to provide relief to the people affected by natural calamities.

(b) to (d) In response to the State Government's request for Central assistance in the wake of drought, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State for assessment of the situation and keeping in view the items and norms for relief expenditure and the balance available with the State Government in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), it was decided that, to begin with, funds from the CRF be utilised first and that the situation be reviewed at a later date. The State Government was suitably informed. Thereafter the State Government requested for advance release of Central share of 2nd installment of CRF.

The entire Central share of CRF for 2001-02 amounting to Rs. 155.97 crore has been released to the State for undertaking immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. In addition, 6 lakh MTs of rice, free of cost, for Food for Work Programme and 2.45 lakh MTs of rice at Below Poverty Line (BPL) rates have been allotted to the State.

Comprehensive agro management programmes

†617. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the aims, objectives and role of comprehensive agro management and the type of assistance being provided to State Governments, in conformity with their action plans, purposes and targets;

(b) whether the regional preferences for identifying the areas under comprehensive management, with a view to clubbing all

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

such plans falling under control of and monitored by the States could be taken into consideration; and

(c) the rules and the terms and conditions which would be binding on the Centre and the States under the comprehensive management programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation initiated the Macro Management Scheme by subsuming 27 Centrally Sponsored Schemes in November, 2000. Macro Management Scheme aims at all round development in agriculture through Work Plans prepared by States. Integration of Central Schemes will weed out duplication and enhance the productivity of the support programmes and accord greater flexibility to State Governments to develop and pursue activities on the basis of regional priorities. The Central Government will supplement/complement the State Governments' efforts through regionally differentiated Work Plans comprising cror/area^arget group specific interventions, formulated in an interactive mode and implemented in a spirit of partnership with the States.

The benefits, apart from better targeting of scarce financial resources, include:

* Reflection of local needs and croryregion specific priorities;
* Greater flexibility and autonomy to States;
* Optimum utilisation of scarce financial resources;
* Removal of regional imbalances.

The guidelines issued to the States outlining conditions for operation of the scheme are given in the Statement.

Statement

Guidelines of the scheme for Macro Management of agriculture

(a) The Work Plan would indicate the physical targets and the benefit stream in terms of area, production level, productivity, etc.

(b) The outlay of the Work Plan would be shared by the Centre

and the States in the ratio of 90:10. In the case of the North-Eastern States, however, the entire expenditure will be borne by the Government of India.

(c) The Central assistance to the States for the Work Plans will be in the ratio of 80% Grant and 20% Loans.

(d) New intiative by the State Government will be governed by the following criteria:—

— It would not be covered under any other approved scheme of Central Government,

— It would not be part of any on-going State Scheme,

— Expenditure on new initiative would not be more that 10% of the allocation to a State under the Scheme of Macro-Management.

(e) There should be a cap of subsidy to farmers incorporated in the Work Plans. Subsidy per farmer or per activity should not exceed the present subsidy level approved under 27 identified schemes.

(f) While the Union Department of Agriculture and Cooperation would have flexibility for reallocation, expenditure under individual components would not be in excess of 20% of what has been incurred in the last year.

(g) Creation of posts and purchase of new staff vehicles should not be included in the Work Plans.

Technical orientation of agricultural scientists

†618. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Agricultural Scientists have been sent abroad for technical orientation, under the Human Resource Development Scheme of the Indian. Council of Agricultural Research, during the last few years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.